

Statement on the new Biodiversity Strategy to 2030

Eurelectric welcomes the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy: The power sector is striving to achieve carbon-neutral electricity by 2045 and we need indeed more sustainably sourced energy to lead the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. In this context, we welcome the acknowledgement in the Strategy of win-win solutions, which can for instance be realised at off-shore wind parks, PV farms as well as hydropower reservoirs.

Greater efforts are needed to restore water ecosystems, however, the focus should be on removing barriers without specific function. In addition, all dams being used twofold, for renewable hydropower generation as well as providing other crucial benefits to society (i.e. flood protection, drought mitigation, drinking water, irrigation, recreation, etc.) should not be questioned. The decision as to which barrier should be removed must be taken on a case-by-case basis, guaranteeing both, the ecological and economic effectiveness of the measure.

As we are aiming at an electricity supply that will be dominated by renewables (over 80% by 2050), Eurelectric would like to stress that all renewable energy sources will be needed, in particular on-shore wind and hydropower but also sustainably-sourced biomass. The deployment of additional RES capacity (mainly wind and solar) needs to increase significantly by a factor of 3 to 4 and energy storage by a factor of up to 6 to reach the decarbonisation goals.

The electricity industry is calling for a consistent approach in the unrolling of the Green Deal to ensure that biodiversity as well as energy and climate policies go hand in hand but also that the different pieces of legislation (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Nature Directives and the Clean Energy Package including RED II) and their conflicting policy goals are fully coherent to ensure that enough space is available to build the necessary, additional RES capacity as well as the associated grid and storage infrastructure, whereas compensation is possible.

Eurelectric is looking forward to constructive exchanges to avoid possible adverse effects of electricity infrastructure on priority areas or species.